

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## REPORT NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY East Germany

**SUBJECT** Situation in the Eastern GDR

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1. There are indications that many members of the CDU do not agree with the course steered by the executive board of the party. Party rallies are usually attended by not more than 15 percent of the membership. The party leadership is reproached with being too subservient to the SED line in violation of the Christian-democratic principles professed by the party. Demands for the election of a new central executive board are voiced more and more frequently. The party leadership, which is fully aware of these tendencies, therefore has ordered that conferences to be attended by party functionaries be held in all Kreis and Stadt areas that the fight against all opponents of the party line be organized and carried out effectively. Gerald Götting, secretary general of the East German CDU and Heinrich Idenitz, State Secretary at the Ministry of Justice and Chairman of the national executive board of the party, were particularly active in this respect.

- Recent happenings in the CDU show that Goetting, Toeplitz, and Max Seifert, the latter also a member of the CDU national executive board, stick to the new line, while Otto Mueschke and other senior members of the party leadership take a different view. However, Mueschke has lost much of his influence over younger functionaries.

3. On 22 October, [ ] the CDU headquarters that Semenov advised Gerald Götting in a personal interview given between 12 and 17 October to moderate his radical course, because otherwise the CDU would decline its membership, which was contrary to Semenov's wishes.

Comment: A growing opposition against the official SED course has been noticed within the East German CDU since May and June 1953. This opposition is connected with the general malaise which found its expression in the riots in East Berlin on and after 17 June. The diholes in opposition to Ulbricht believe that they have some support in Senenov who is said to prefer a more liberal course. On the side of the SED leadership efforts are being made to get the situation under control by strengthening the influence of placid and ambitious party functionaries such as Gerald Goetting.

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